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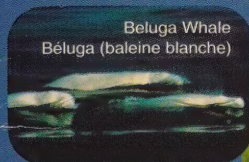
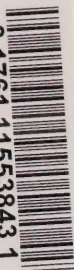
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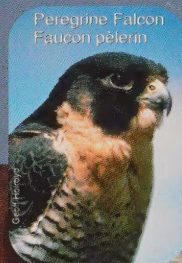
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Beluga Whale
Béluja (baleine blanche)



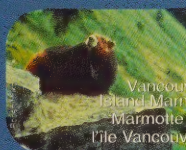
Swift Fox
Renard veloxe



Peregrine Falcon
Faucon pèlerin



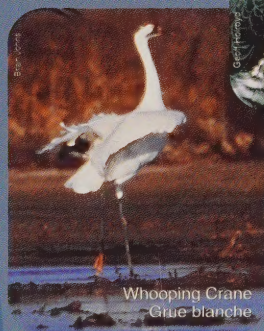
Burrowing Owl
Chevaline des terriers



Vancouver
Island Marmot
Marmotte de
l'île Vancouver



Nuttall's Cottontail
Lapin de Nuttall



Whooping Crane
Grue blanche



Harlequin Duck
Arlequin plongeur



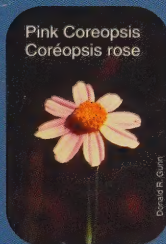
Giant Helleborine
Epipactis géant



Phantom Orchid
Cephalanthère
d'Austin



Wood Turtle
Tortue des bois



Pink Coreopsis
Coréopsis rose

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Canada's Strategy
to Protect Species
at Risk

La Stratégie canadienne
pour la protection des espèces
en péril

Canada

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RECOVERY STORIES: A MEASURE OF SUCCESS

There have been a number of successes over the years in the recovery of species at risk, thanks to recovery efforts by governments, stakeholders, organizations and individuals. Here is a selection of stories about those successes.

Swift Fox

The Swift Fox, about the size of a house cat, is the smallest member of the North American wild dog family. Named because of its speed, a Swift Fox can keep pace with a Jackrabbit at speeds of more than 60 km/h. Swift Foxes were once common in the Canadian grasslands of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Loss of habitat, accidental trapping during predator control programs, and severe winters and droughts all contributed to the disappearance of the Swift Fox from Canada in the early 1900s. In 1978, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) formally designated the Swift Fox as an extirpated species (meaning that it is extinct in the wild in Canada but occurs elsewhere).

In 1983, a program was initiated to reintroduce the Swift Fox to parts of its former range in Canada. Since then, over 800 animals raised in captivity from American breeding stock or translocated from healthy populations in the U.S. have been released. Despite bad weather and the presence of natural predators such as coyotes, bobcats and eagles, many have survived and have begun reproducing in the wild. In 1996, the Canadian population of Swift Foxes in the wild was estimated at 289, mostly on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. More than 80% of these foxes were the wild-born offspring of released animals.

The release program ended in 1996, and populations are being monitored to track growth and distribution. It has been discovered that foxes from the Canadian release program have spread into northern sections of Montana. With the cooperation of Montana, the recovery team is in the process of completing a census of the shared population. Preliminary results indicate significant growth in both population size and distribution.

The status of the Swift Fox was downlisted in 1998 from extirpated to endangered, marking only the sixteenth time in 20 years that the status of a species has been downlisted. The long-term goal of the 1995 Swift Fox recovery plan was to ensure that the species would be re-established in two distinct areas with a total population of 420 by the year 2000, so that its status could be downlisted to threatened from endangered. While on track to accomplish this population objective, the goal will take another few years to achieve.



Trumpeter Swan

Pure-white feathers, jet-black bill and elongated neck give the Trumpeter Swan its breathtaking elegance. Known for its down and feathers, the species was also hunted at the beginning of the century for its meat. In 1933, there were only 127 breeding pairs left in North America. Many governments and groups have worked over the years to stave off extinction. By 1978, recovery efforts had pushed population numbers to about 5,400. Nonetheless, COSEWIC listed the species as vulnerable (now called "special concern") that year, because most of the population was crowded into a relatively small wintering area in the western United States. Fortunately, by 1996, the Pacific coast population had fared well and the worldwide population had grown to almost 20,000. The listing has since been changed to not at risk. In Canada, the Comox Valley in British Columbia is now the winter home to about one tenth of the world population. Near Midland, Ontario, Wye Marsh was the site of the first southern Ontario nesting of Trumpeter Swans in over 200 years. The Trumpeter Swan has been protected under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* since 1917.

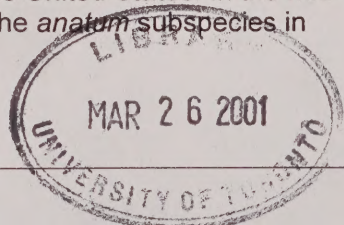
Ferruginous Hawk

A wooden platform attached to the top of a tall pole sticks out in the prairie landscape. This simple structure provides the kind of high perch in an open area that the Ferruginous Hawk prefers for nesting, and that has played an important role in the recovery of the Ferruginous Hawk in Canada. The erection of artificial nesting sites is one of a series of projects that have helped to stabilize the population of the raptor. Recovery efforts have involved the three prairie provinces, the Government of Canada, prairie farmers, ranchers and mining companies. There has also been international co-operation with the United States on improving winter habitat.

COSEWIC listed the Ferruginous Hawk as threatened in 1989. Recovery efforts were quick and effective, and by 1995 the status had been downlisted to vulnerable (now called "special concern"). Although the hawk is still sensitive to human activities and natural events, its population is much more stable. There are an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 breeding pairs in existence, compared with the 500 to 1,500 of 15 years ago. (Ferruginous, incidentally, comes from the Latin word for rust . . . the hawks have rusty-brown coloured feathers.)

Peregrine Falcon

Once flown by royalty, regal and fierce in appearance, and capable of diving for prey at speeds of up to 320 km/h, and once flown by royalty, the Peregrine Falcon has captured the imagination of bird lovers and naturalists across Canada and the United States. In the mid-1930s, it was estimated that there were 1,000 nesting pairs of the *anatum* subspecies in





North America. Widespread use of the pesticide DDT in the 1950s and 1960s, however, reduced their numbers in Canada to 34 nesting pairs by 1975. The *anatum* subspecies was designated as endangered in Canada in 1978. Since then, although the Peregrine Falcon has become almost synonymous with endangered species, conservation and recovery efforts have shown remarkable results.

Since the use of DDT was discontinued in Canada, Peregrine Falcon populations have recovered with help from an aggressive captive breeding and release program. More than 1,500 young falcons have been released over the last 25 years. Peregrine populations have been re-established in almost every geographic region of Canada that historically had Peregrines. The Okanagan Valley in British Columbia is an exception. It is now estimated that there are more than 500 breeding pairs in Canada, including 85 in southern Canada, where nests can be found on skyscrapers in cities such as Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and Winnipeg.

The *anatum* subspecies was downlisted from endangered to threatened in 1999.

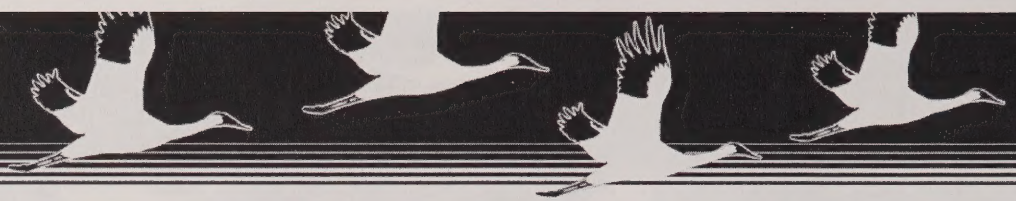
Whooping Crane

Whooping Cranes are the tallest birds in North America. An adult male stands 1.5 m tall and has a wingspan up to 2.5 m. Historically, Whooping Cranes were found throughout much of central and western North America, although they were never very numerous. In the late 1800s, when accurate population estimates were first available, there were approximately 1,500 birds. Most of the breeding population was concentrated in the aspen parkland and prairie regions of western Canada and the United States.

In the late 1800s, populations began to decrease because of indiscriminate shooting, egg collection, habitat disturbance and the draining of large, isolated marshes, which the cranes frequented. In 1941, there were only 21 wild birds and two captives remaining. COSEWIC formally designated the Whooping Crane as an endangered species in 1978.

The Whooping Crane's breeding grounds are located in Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories. The cranes migrate south to their wintering grounds in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in South Texas. The recovery plan has involved protecting their habitat, establishing a captive breeding program, conducting research into potential new reintroduction sites for captive-raised Whooping Cranes, and teaching the captive-raised cranes to migrate with the use of guide birds and ultralight aircraft. Efforts are also under way to establish a new Whooping Crane population in eastern North America.

In 2000, there were approximately 180 birds in the wild, including 51 nesting pairs. The species was reassessed by COSEWIC in 2000 and remains on the endangered list. The



cranes still face many threats, mainly along their migration route where they often collide with power lines. The annual migration of Whooping Cranes is carefully monitored by scientists. Members of the public who observe them during their migration on the Prairies and elsewhere in Canada are encouraged to call the Canadian Wildlife Service toll free at (306) 975-5595 to report their location.

Wood Bison

Recovery of endangered species is not an activity limited to the 20th and 21st centuries. Lawmakers as early as 1877 realized that buffalo had been over-hunted and passed the *Buffalo Protection Act*. Unfortunately, enforcement of the Act was difficult over such an immense area, and numbers of Wood Bison (also known as Wood Buffalo) dwindled drastically. From an estimated 168,000 in 1800, there were about 250 animals left in 1900. Fortunately, enforcement efforts in support of the Act increased, and now, some 100 years later, the Wood Bison is returning to healthier numbers.

Today, there are approximately 3,000 Wood Bison living in six free-ranging, disease-free herds under government management. Only the Mackenzie and Yukon herds presently meet the minimum population objective for the recovery program. Continued management efforts are required to ensure that the recovery goal of four geographically separate herds of 400 in Canada is achieved. The greatest single factor limiting the potential for further bison recovery is threat of disease in some of the highest quality habitat for the subspecies.

COSEWIC listed the Wood Bison as endangered in 1978 and downlisted the subspecies to threatened in 1988, in recognition of the progress that had been made in recovery efforts. The long-term health of the Wood Bison subspecies is being ensured through the work of a national recovery team established in 1990.



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RECOVERY STORIES: A WORK IN PROGRESS

A number of recovery efforts are currently under way. The following stories highlight some of those efforts.

Vancouver Island Marmot

As its name suggests, the Vancouver Island Marmot is found only in British Columbia, on a few of the higher mountains on Vancouver Island. The species was discovered in 1910. Since then, human activities including logging, mining, ski developments and poaching have altered their sub-alpine meadow habitat. The Vancouver Island Marmot was listed as endangered in 1979. The total population was estimated to be no more than 150 in 1997, and by 2000 had declined to about 80.

Although some details of the marmot's decline are still being studied, research data over the past 20 years indicates that habitat modification -- due largely to forestry operations -- has impacted negatively on the natural marmot concentrations on Vancouver Island. With reduced 'dispersal' of the species throughout the island, they have become more susceptible to increased mortality from other threats such as predation and disease. Ironically, it appears that logging helps create short-term habitats for the species, and new colonies have been found in areas that have been clear-cut. However, scientists do not believe that these habitats can support healthy marmot populations in the long term.

The Vancouver Island Marmot is the largest member of the squirrel family. Adults typically grow to the size of a large cat: males measure 6.3 to 7.1 cm in length and weigh an average of 3.5 kg. They construct an elaborate system of underground tunnels in which to hibernate, bear young, hide from predators and avoid weather extremes. A natural colony usually contains fewer than five adults, plus their young. Marmots generally breed every other year after the age of four, with a typical litter size of three to five young. They prefer to feed on grasses and grass-like plants.

There is widespread support for the work of the Vancouver Island Marmot recovery team in British Columbia and farther afield. In particular, the provincial government and the forestry company MacMillan Bloedel (now part of Weyerhaeuser Canada) have made significant financial commitments to support recovery efforts. These include captive breeding programs under way in the Toronto and Calgary zoos, an extensive research program, and



construction of a new dedicated breeding facility on Mt. Washington. The long-term goal of the recovery plan is 400-600 Vancouver Island Marmots dispersed in three distinct areas of the island. Progress has been made in identifying potential habitats for reintroducing captive-bred marmots to the wild.

In August 2000 Environment Minister David Anderson announced that the Government of Canada is investing \$500,000 over the next three years to assist with the recovery efforts for the Vancouver Island Marmot.

Burrowing Owl

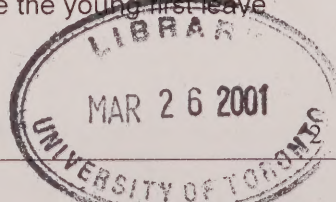
The Burrowing Owl is unique among Canadian raptors because it nests and roosts in burrows abandoned by ground-dwelling mammals such as badgers, gophers and prairie dogs. The species lives in grassland habitat where it can nest in an open area surrounded by short vegetation and where there is sufficient prey. There is a high rate of loss of eggs and young to predators such as other owls, hawks, snakes, badgers, skunks, foxes, cats and weasels.

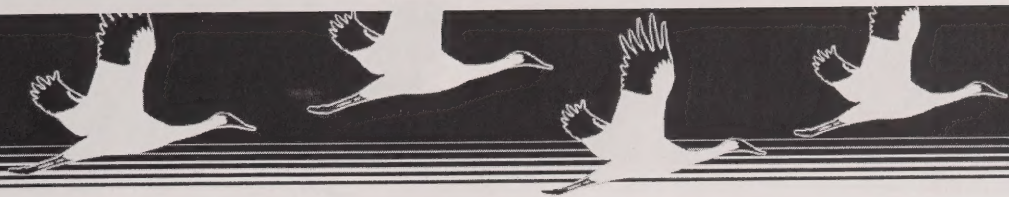
Burrowing Owl populations have declined dramatically in Canada over the past decade despite intensive recovery efforts across the four western provinces. The species is no longer found in British Columbia or Manitoba, and populations are declining by about 16% per year in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The owl was formally listed as an endangered species in 1995, when only about 1,000 breeding pairs were estimated to remain in Canada.

The causes of the population decline are not clearly understood but are thought to include low productivity due to a limited food supply (grasshoppers and other large insects) and limited availability of suitable nesting burrows.

About 680 farmers, ranchers and other rural property owners in Saskatchewan and Alberta are involved in efforts to protect Burrowing Owl nest sites. Operation Burrowing Owl, which was established in 1987 by the Saskatchewan government, protects over 52,000 acres of privately-owned nesting habitat; public landowners protect an additional 98,000 acres. In Alberta, Operation Grassland Community oversees the signing of voluntary habitat protection agreements with landowners willing to protect native prairie habitat for Burrowing Owls.

The Burrowing Owl recovery plan objectives include a ban on the use of the pesticide carbofuran within 250 m of owl nest sites. In the Regina area, a recent study helped to increase the number of young owls through the placement of predator-proof artificial nest boxes and the provision of supplemental food to nesting owls. Research is also being conducted to investigate the factors affecting owls between the time the young first leave their nests and the time they leave for their wintering grounds.





New studies are investigating the food supply and male foraging habits to determine why over half the young starve and do not leave the nest. Scientists have also been conducting research in Mexico since 1989 to identify and better understand the wintering grounds of the Burrowing Owl. Wintering grounds in South Texas have also been identified and are being studied.

Harlequin Duck

The Harlequin Duck is a small, colourful sea duck found on the east and west coasts of Canada and the United States – as well as in Greenland and Iceland. While the western population is healthy, the eastern population of the Harlequin Duck was listed as endangered in 1990.

During the winter, the eastern population of the Harlequin Duck can be found along the northeastern Atlantic coast and the southwestern coast of Greenland. Their primary wintering grounds are along the coast of Maine, although they can also be found at a few sites along the rugged coasts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy, and as far south as Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. There are approximately 1,800 Harlequin Ducks overwintering along the Atlantic coast, which is down considerably from historic numbers. It is estimated that an additional 4,000-10,000 Harlequin Ducks from northeastern North America moult and winter along the southwest coast of Greenland. In the spring, the ducks move inland, where they breed along fast-flowing rivers and streams from Nunavut to northern New Brunswick.

A number of factors keep populations low. Females do not reach sexual maturity until they are two or three years old, and in some years fewer than half the females are thought to nest. Potential factors limiting breeding success include hydroelectric developments, mining and forestry operations, road construction and increased recreational activities in once-remote areas.

The Harlequin Duck also faces threats in its moulting and wintering areas, including oil spills, pollution and other human disturbance. Even though hunting of the species is prohibited, ducks continue to be killed by hunters, largely accidentally, since females and immature birds are difficult to differentiate from many legally hunted species.

A recovery plan for the species was completed in 1995. It includes continued enforcement of hunting bans, educational programs to help hunters identify the Harlequin Duck, identifying and protecting important habitat, and developing mitigation measures to minimize the impact of development on the Harlequin's breeding and coastal habitat.



American Marten (Newfoundland population)

Since the Newfoundland population of the American Marten was designated as threatened in 1986, its population has declined by 50%. As a result, the Marten's status was uplisted to endangered in 1996. Although the Marten can be found in coniferous forests throughout most of Canada, it is estimated that only about 300 remain of the Newfoundland subspecies.

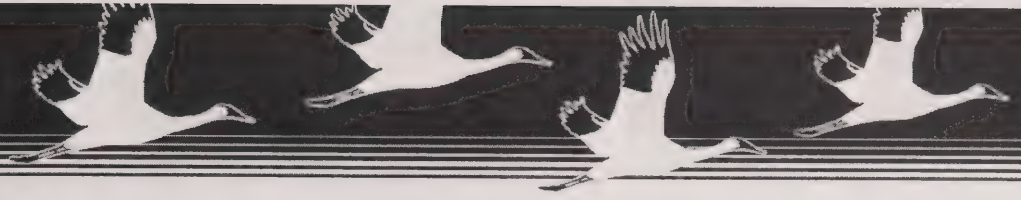
The American Marten is a small, arboreal member of the weasel family, with a long, bushy tail. It uses trees for dens, resting sites and escape, however it also spends a good portion of its time on the ground hunting or resting under logs or stumps, or under the snow in the winter time. It feeds on a variety of small mammals such as voles, hares and squirrels, and occasionally on birds, eggs, berries and carrion.

The species was once found throughout most of Newfoundland, however, the loss or fragmentation of habitat due to wood harvesting and fire, and accidental mortality related to snaring and trapping for other fur-bearing species have combined to reduce populations to their current levels. The Marten is now found only in some forests of western Newfoundland and in Terra Nova National Park in the east.

The long-term goal of the Marten recovery plan is a population of about 1,000 Marten throughout the island of Newfoundland. The short-term recovery objectives are to establish or maintain three distinct and protected populations of at least 50 animals each in Newfoundland, and to ensure they do not become extirpated at Little Grand Lake.

Wildlife managers have worked with trappers to design a new trap for mink and hares that does not trap Martens. A modified snare has also been introduced which the recovery team hopes will allow Martens to escape, while still catching Snowshoe Hares. New forestry management programs have been introduced into the Marten's range, and a captive breeding program has been established. A second Marten population has been established in Terra Nova, in the eastern part of the province, although the population is still too small to ensure its long-term survival. Additional research is being carried out to assess potential habitat for future releases, and to determine whether it is possible to increase the Marten's prey base.

Although progress on the Marten recovery plan has been slow and difficult, public education efforts have been successful in raising awareness of the threats faced by the species. The Marten has become a flagship species for local environmental groups.



Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

Rattlesnakes have never enjoyed a positive public image, and the fear of snakebite has prompted many people to kill them indiscriminately. However, the main threat to the species has been loss of suitable habitat because of land clearing and wetland drainage. The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake was designated as threatened by COSEWIC in 1991.

In Canada, the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake is found only in Ontario, in four distinct areas: on the northeastern shores of Georgian Bay, on the Bruce Peninsula, in the Wainfleet Bog near Port Colborne and at the Ojibway Prairie complex in Windsor. They frequent low swampy areas and feed largely on small mammals. The Eastern Massasauga is listed as "specially protected" under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and is guarded against activities such as capture, harassment, trade and killing.

Research has also been conducted on habitat use and the effects of human disturbance on Massasaugas. Public outreach programs are in place to help people overcome their fear of rattlesnakes. Ironically, research has shown that Eastern Massasaugas do not strike readily when they encounter non-threatening humans, and usually remain so quiet and still that their presence goes undetected. The Toronto Zoo, Parks Canada, Parks Ontario, the Ojibway Nature Centre and Science North in Sudbury have all been involved in increasing public awareness in areas near Massasauga habitats.

The draft recovery plan for the Eastern Massasauga identifies the need for additional research on habitat use and population biology. An Internet-based network has been established (www.terra-plex.com/sin/) to allow scientists to share information more effectively. Populations are being monitored and managed to reduce vulnerability, and a network of "snake safe" or "Massasauga friendly" zones are being established across the subspecies' range. The goal of the recovery plan is to stabilize populations, but officials do not believe successful implementation of the plan will result in downlisting of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.



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BACKGROUND

The Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk

A History of Cooperation

There is a long history of cooperation on species at risk among federal, provincial and territorial governments. Through the designation of protected areas, implementation of international wildlife agreements and a commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the two levels of government have worked together on many nature issues.

In the spring of 1995, officials from Environment Canada, the provinces and territories held public workshops in many areas of the country to determine what should be included in a national approach to protecting species at risk. This led to the development of the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. In October 1996, wildlife ministers agreed in principle to the Accord and committed to a national approach to protect species at risk. (A copy of the Accord is attached.)

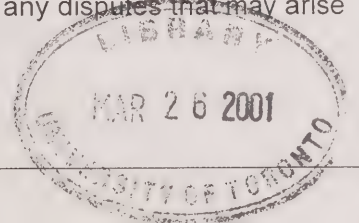
In 1998, farmers, ranchers, environmental organizations, conservation groups, communities and individuals took part in two national workshops sponsored by wildlife directors to discuss how to implement the Accord.

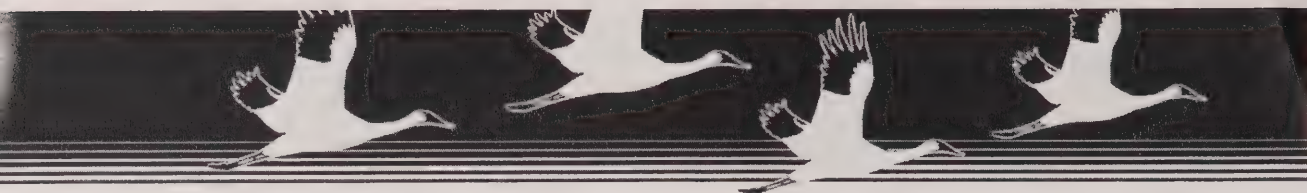
Commitments Under the Accord

The Accord outlines commitments to designate species at risk, protect their habitats and develop recovery plans. By endorsing its terms, governments acknowledge that no single jurisdiction can effectively protect species at risk. Partnerships are crucial. Governments have agreed to play a leadership role by developing complementary legislation, regulations, policies and programs to identify and protect threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats.

Under the Accord, federal, provincial and territorial governments agreed to coordinate activities by creating the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council. The Council is made up of federal ministers of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Heritage and the provincial and territorial ministers with responsibilities for wildlife species.

The Council's mandate is to provide national leadership for the protection of species at risk. It has specific responsibilities for identifying and recovering species at risk and co-ordinating action among all parties. It also serves as a forum for resolving any disputes that may arise out of implementation of the Accord.





The Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council: Progress to Date

At its inaugural meeting in September 1999, the Council agreed that the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada (COSEWIC) will continue to provide independent scientific assessments of species at risk. Last August, the Council met in Iqaluit, where COSEWIC presented its findings to the Council for the first time. Federal, provincial and territorial wildlife ministers also reconfirmed their conviction that the protection of species at risk in Canada is a shared responsibility and that progress on wildlife issues can only be achieved by working cooperatively.

The next meeting of the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council is being organized by Ontario and will be held in Toronto in September 2001.



ACCORD FOR THE PROTECTION OF SPECIES AT RISK

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for wildlife commit to a national approach for the protection of species at risk. The goal is to prevent species in Canada from becoming extinct as a consequence of human activity.



We recognize that:

- i) species do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries and cooperation is crucial to the conservation and protection of species at risk;
- ii) the conservation of species at risk is a key component of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to conserve biological diversity in Canada;
- iii) governments have a leadership role in providing sound information and appropriate measures for the conservation and protection of species at risk, and the effective involvement of all Canadians is essential;
- iv) species conservation initiatives will be met through complementary federal and provincial/territorial legislation, regulations, policies, and programs;
- v) stewardship activities contributing to the conservation of species should be supported as an integral element in preventing species from becoming at risk; and
- vi) lack of full scientific certainty must not be used as a reason to delay measures to avoid or minimize threats to species at risk.

We agree to:

- i) participate in the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council in order to coordinate our activities and resolve issues for the protection of species at risk in Canada;
- ii) recognize the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a source of independent advice on the status of species at risk nationally; and,
- iii) establish complementary legislation and programs that provide for effective protection of species at risk throughout Canada, and that will:
 - a. address all native wild species;
 - b. provide an independent process for assessing the status of species at risk;
 - c. legally designate species as threatened or endangered;
 - d. provide immediate legal protection for threatened or endangered species;
 - e. provide protection for the habitat of threatened or endangered species;
 - f. provide for the development of recovery plans within one year for endangered species and two years for threatened species that address the identified threats to the species and its habitat;
 - g. ensure multi-jurisdictional cooperation for the protection of species that cross borders through the development and implementation of recovery plans;
 - h. consider the needs of species at risk as part of environmental assessment processes;
 - i. implement recovery plans in a timely fashion;
 - j. monitor, assess and report regularly on the status of all wild species;
 - k. emphasize preventive measures to keep species from becoming at risk;
 - l. improve awareness of the needs of species at risk;
 - m. encourage citizens to participate in conservation and protection actions;
 - n. recognize, foster and support effective and long term stewardship by resource users and managers, landowners, and other citizens; and
 - o. provide for effective enforcement.
- iv) refer any disputes that may arise under this Accord to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council for resolution.

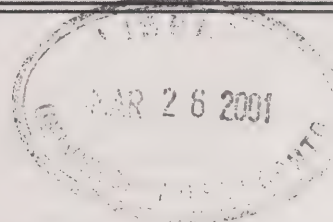
Additional guidance on the implementation of this approach is provided in the evolving national framework for the conservation of species at risk.

September 1999

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BACKGROUND

The Proposed Species at Risk Act



The proposed Species at Risk Act (SARA) aims to protect wildlife at risk from becoming extinct or lost from the wild, with the ultimate objective of helping their numbers to recover. The proposed Act will cover all wildlife species listed as being at risk nationally and their critical habitats. SARA will be a cornerstone in species protection and recovery.

SARA builds upon existing laws and agreements, including the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the *National Parks Act*, the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*, the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species* and the *Canada Wildlife Act*.

The proposed SARA also complements the work done by provincial and territorial governments under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. This recognizes that species protection is a shared responsibility. The Act will fulfill the Government of Canada's responsibility.

Highlights of the Proposed SARA include:

Scientific Assessments and the Listing Process

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is given legal status under SARA and will continue to operate at arm's length from government. It will assess and classify the status of wildlife species using the best available scientific, community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge. These assessments will be published and will form the basis for the Minister's recommendations to the Governor-in-Council for the List of Wildlife Species at Risk.

Prohibitions


SARA will prohibit the killing, harming, harassing, capturing or taking of species officially listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated, and the destruction of their residences.

Emergency Listings and Orders

SARA gives the responsible Ministers emergency authority to have species listed and take action to prohibit the destruction of critical habitat for a listed species if a species is in imminent danger.

Recovery and Management Planning

Under SARA, there will be a mandatory requirement for developing recovery strategies and action plans for endangered or threatened species, and management plans for



species of special concern. These will be done in partnership with the provinces, territories, wildlife management boards, Aboriginal organizations, landowners, fishing interests, universities, industry, environmental groups and other appropriate individuals.

Critical Habitat Protection

Recovery strategies and action plans will identify the critical habitat of a threatened or endangered species needing protection. Once identified, critical habitat will be protected by conservation agreements, provincial or territorial legislation, or federal prohibitions.

Stewardship

SARA will promote and enable funding for voluntary conservation activities and conservation agreements by individuals, organizations, communities, businesses or governments to protect species and habitats. Canada is fortunate to have many such activities already under way.

Compensation

SARA will enable compensation to be provided to any person for losses suffered as a result of any extraordinary impact related to the use of prohibitions against the destruction of critical habitat. The report provided by Dr. Peter Pearse in December 2000 reviews many questions related to compensation, and will provide a good basis for developing an appropriate regulatory framework.

Partnerships

SARA complements provincial and territorial legislation on species at risk. It will also fulfill the Government of Canada's commitment under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. This Accord was supported by provinces and territories in 1996. The proposed Act also recognizes the essential role in the conservation of wildlife by Aboriginal peoples of Canada and wildlife management boards established under land claims agreements.

Changes from the Former Bill C-33:

With the dissolution of Parliament last October following the federal election call, Bill C-33 died on the Order Paper. Many individuals and organizations had reviewed the former bill and submitted useful suggestions, which have been incorporated to improve this new bill.

1. The Preamble was changed to include a statement recognizing that the habitat of species at risk is key to their conservation. A statement was also included to recognize that there will be circumstances under which the cost of conserving species at risk should be shared.



2. Some definitions were amended to be consistent with those used by COSEWIC. These include the definition for "individual" and "species of special concern." Similarly, wording was changed to be consistent with COSEWIC's process for establishing priorities to determine when wildlife species are to be assessed.
3. The definition for "wildlife management board" was amended to ensure that any body authorized to perform functions in relation to wildlife species in a land claims agreement is covered.
4. The COSEWIC section was changed to clarify that the COSEWIC list will be published unchanged in the public registry, establishing it publicly as the scientific list.
5. To provide greater openness, transparency and accountability, a new section, which would require that the Minister convene, at least once every two years, a round table of persons interested in matters related to the protection of species at risk, was added. The round table would advise the Minister on these matters and its recommendations would be placed in the public registry. The Minister would be required to respond within 180 days and his or her response would also be placed in the public registry.
6. Other documents to be placed in the public registry would now also include the annual reports of COSEWIC, general status reports, action plans and the Minister's annual reports to Parliament. In addition, with respect to delegation agreements under the Act, wording to the effect that a copy of an agreement and every annual report must be placed in the public registry was included.
7. The recovery strategy provisions were re-worded to allow for a 60-day comment period on the proposed strategy and 30 days for its finalization. This will differentiate between the time frame for public comment and that to make any required changes before finalization. In addition, existing plans will become "proposed" recovery strategies, so that they too will allow for a 60-day comment period and 30 days for their finalization.
8. The section on action plan monitoring was changed to ensure that socio-economic impacts are assessed and reported on five years after the action plans come into effect. That report will be placed in the public registry.
9. Regarding the time line for COSEWIC to complete a status report in the case of emergency listing, two years was changed to one. Under the project review section, the word "adverse" was added before "effects" in the subsection dealing with required action.
10. With respect to the investigation provisions, the sections dealing with the issuance of progress reports to citizens were deleted. This ensures fairness for the party being investigated, while maintaining the right for a citizen to request an investigation of an alleged offence.

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BACKGROUNDER

COSEWIC

What Is COSEWIC?

COSEWIC (the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) has provided advice to governments on the status of wildlife species in Canada for the past 23 years. Its work is highly valued and respected.

COSEWIC will be established for the first time as a legal entity by the proposed Species at Risk Act (SARA), and it will report to the newly established Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (the Council). The assessment process will continue at arm's length from government, as COSEWIC maintains its impartial scientific and expert judgment.

The main function of COSEWIC is to assess the level of risk extinction for wildlife species based on the best available scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge on the status of these species. This assessment will be based on biological factors and use rigorous assessment criteria, followed by classification into categories based on level of risk. The COSEWIC list will be published unchanged in the public registry, establishing it publicly as the scientific list.

Who Participates on COSEWIC?

COSEWIC will be composed of professional scientists and experts with Aboriginal traditional knowledge and community knowledge who meet the credentials established by COSEWIC for membership. These members will be drawn from universities, government departments, wildlife management boards, Aboriginal organizations, museums, non-governmental organizations and others with expertise in the conservation of wildlife species in Canada.

Appointed by the Minister of the Environment after consultation with the Council and appropriate experts, COSEWIC will consist of 29 voting members. Each member may designate an alternate, and all must have expertise in the relevant scientific fields and/or Aboriginal traditional and/or community knowledge.

The Minister responsible for wildlife conservation in each of the provinces and territories will nominate 13 members. The members may be drawn from government or from any organization within a province or territory. Four members will be chosen from federal



organizations—the Canadian Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Parks Agency and the Federal Biosystematics Partnership. Eight members will be the chairs of the Species Specialist Groups (SSGs) established by COSEWIC. Species Specialist Groups include those for birds, mammals, plants, reptiles and amphibians, marine fish, marine mammals, freshwater fish and invertebrates.

An additional Specialist Group will include experts with Aboriginal traditional knowledge, who will be selected through discussions between COSEWIC and Aboriginal Peoples. These members will then select a chair who will sit as a member of COSEWIC.

The remaining three non-government seats at large will be selected from among candidates nominated through a publicly advertised search process or from non-governmental organizations or other appropriate experts. A short list of nominees will be compiled for review and approval by the Council.

COSEWIC will operate with an open and transparent process. The scientists or other experts on COSEWIC are there to represent their expertise on Canada's wild species, as well as all the regions of Canada, regardless of the organization for which they work.

How Does COSEWIC Assess the Status of a Species?

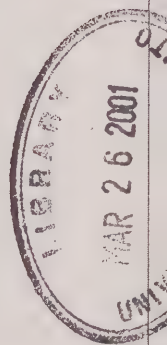
The COSEWIC process assesses the status of wildlife species using the best available scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge. Species are chosen for assessment from the results of ongoing monitoring of the general status of wildlife species in Canada, various international assessment processes—including the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Nature Conservancy ranking scheme—and recommendations by experts.


There are four main steps in the COSEWIC listing process: 1) determining the eligibility of species; 2) choosing species and assigning priorities; 3) assessing the risk of extinction; and 4) publication of COSEWIC's assessments with scientific rationale.

1. Eligibility of Species

To determine whether a species is eligible for assessment, COSEWIC looks at four questions:

- I. Is it a taxonomically valid species, subspecies/variety or population according to taxonomical experts?
- II. Is it a species native to Canada (either naturally occurring or having persisted here for at least 50 years)?



- 
- III. Is it a species of regular occurrence in Canada, not an accidental visitor?
- IV. If it is a non-resident or migratory species, does it require Canadian lands or waters for a key part of its life cycle?

When a species, subspecies/variety or population comes up for possible consideration, the COSEWIC SSGs will apply the above-mentioned criteria to ensure it is eligible for listing prior to assessing its status.

2) Lists of Candidate Species and Priorities

Lists of candidate species will be developed by the SSGs from among eligible species that may be at risk according to monitoring of wildlife status by government jurisdictions, international assessments or expert knowledge. The SSGs will be assisted by the General Status of Wild Species in Canada project under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk, which will generate lists of species that may be at risk based on evaluations conducted by provinces, territories and the Government of Canada. The SSGs will produce a list of species to be considered for assessment, based on factors such as population size and distribution, geographic range, sensitivity to human activities and threats.

3) Assessing Risk of Extinction

When a decision has been made to assess a species, the appropriate SSG will commission reports on the status of the species. Status reports will follow precise guidelines specifying the types of information that need to be included for assessment purposes. Status reports will normally take up to two years to prepare from the time that they are commissioned to the time they are considered by COSEWIC. The status report will be used by COSEWIC to assign the species to one of seven categories: extinct, extirpated (species no longer present in the wild in Canada), endangered, threatened, special concern, species not at risk and data deficient.

A number of objective criteria based on numeric data are used for classifying species into categories, especially to designate species as threatened or endangered.

Review of Status Reports

Two kinds of status reports can be prepared for review by COSEWIC: a) those commissioned by COSEWIC and b) those prepared by any person and submitted to COSEWIC for its consideration. However, in both cases, the form and content of a status report must include the necessary information to enable COSEWIC to make its assessment with regard to classifying species at risk.



a) Status reports commissioned by COSEWIC

The SSGs will commission status reports from the list of identified species. Once a draft status report is prepared by the commissioned author, the report will be reviewed by the relevant SSG. After this review, the report will be forwarded to the appropriate jurisdictional body, including wildlife management boards established under comprehensive land claims agreements, for its review. The report will be distributed at least six months in advance of the COSEWIC meeting. After reviewing any new information provided by jurisdictions, the chair of the SSG concerned will recommend a category of risk based on an evaluation of the report findings against the new criteria. The report with the proposed category of risk will then be distributed to all members of COSEWIC for review and evaluation at least two months before the next COSEWIC meeting. At the meeting, COSEWIC will evaluate the report and recommend a status assessment for the species.

b) Status reports prepared by other persons

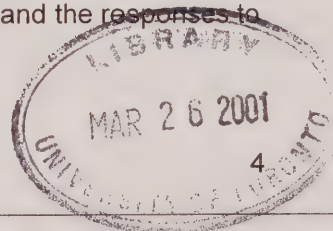
Unsolicited reports may also be received by the COSEWIC Secretariat from any source. If the reports meet the COSEWIC standard and guidelines, they will be forwarded to the appropriate SSG and put into the assessment process and prioritized as outlined above. However, if they concern a species for which there is currently no SSG, an ad hoc subcommittee will be assembled by the chair of COSEWIC. The ad hoc group will be chaired by a member of COSEWIC.

4) Publication of the COSEWIC Assessment

Once COSEWIC has assessed the status of a species (including identifying the major threats to the species), the assessment and the reasons for it will be provided to the Minister of the Environment and the Council and posted on the public registry. Final status reports will contain an executive summary and a technical data summary, which will be available on the public registry. The entire final status report will be published as an official technical report series to be made available on request.

How are COSEWIC Assessments Made into Law?

The COSEWIC scientific assessments will form the basis for the Minister of the Environment's recommendations to the Governor-in-Council for the List of Wildlife Species at Risk. The decision to list a species leads to the use of prohibitions on destroying the species and its residences and mandatory recovery and management planning. The SARA decision-making process is transparent, and it will be accountable to the public. The Minister must report annually to Parliament on COSEWIC's scientific assessments and the responses to each of them.





How does an Emergency Listing Work?

Procedures for emergency listings under the proposed Species at Risk Act will allow for immediate action when there is evidence of a rapid decline in a given species. Any person who believes that there is sufficient evidence to support an emergency listing can submit a request for emergency assessment. The minimum information required to warrant an emergency assessment by COSEWIC must include data showing that there is a clear and imminent danger of a serious decline in the species population and/or range, or that such a decline is already in progress and will continue unless immediate corrective actions are taken. The imminent or existing threats contributing to the emergency situation should be clearly stated.

COSEWIC will provide the person who submits the request, the Council and the Minister of the Environment with a notice of its assessment. A copy of the notice will be placed in the public registry. The Minister of the Environment, if of the opinion that there is an imminent threat to the survival of a wildlife species, will be required to recommend to the Governor-in-Council that the species be listed on an emergency basis as an endangered species. COSEWIC will then begin a status report on the species immediately and confirm the species' status within one year.

What Happens to the Existing COSEWIC List of Species at Risk?

COSEWIC has assessed the status of a number of wildlife species over the last 23 years, and it enjoys wide public support for its efforts and its assessments. However, some believe that the assessment criteria used in the past were too subjective. There is now broad agreement on new, more refined assessment criteria that COSEWIC has adopted based on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) criteria.

COSEWIC is in the process of reassessing the extirpated, threatened and endangered species on its current list against the new criteria. It is also important to update status information as some of the species have not been re-examined for many years. Moreover, under the proposed SARA, COSEWIC will be required to consider community knowledge and Aboriginal traditional knowledge in making its assessments.

It is expected that the vast majority of these reassessments will be completed before the proposed SARA is proclaimed. The purpose is simply to update the existing COSEWIC list according to the new criteria.



Within 30 days of proclamation of the legislation, COSEWIC will report its reassessments of the extirpated, endangered or threatened species on its existing list to the public, the Minister of the Environment and the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council. The timeline for reporting its reassessments to the Minister may be extended for the small number of species for which COSEWIC does not have sufficient information to classify. The Minister of the Environment will have the authority to recommend the List of Wildlife Species at Risk to the Governor-in-Council, taking into account the COSEWIC reassessments. Species of special concern on the existing COSEWIC list will also be reassessed, but those in the most danger must be dealt with first.

How Can I Participate?

Under the proposed SARA, an executive summary and technical data summary of status reports will be posted on the public registry. There will be an opportunity to provide input directly to the SSGs, either in writing or at their annual meetings. Various jurisdictions have a process in place that can capture additional information or comment while they review. Anyone may submit a species status report to COSEWIC, which will be evaluated by COSEWIC for consideration. Interested observers may request permission from the chair of COSEWIC to attend COSEWIC meetings if they have scientific, Aboriginal traditional or community knowledge to contribute to a particular topic of discussion.

Where Can I Get More Information on Species at Risk or on COSEWIC?

Under the proposed SARA, the main source of information related to the Act, including information on species at risk and COSEWIC, will be found in the public registry that is being developed and maintained by the Canadian Wildlife Service. It will include information on all aspects of the national endangered species program, including listing, recovery and species specific information. Through the public registry and the COSEWIC Secretariat, COSEWIC will provide information to the public including its membership, operating procedures, assessment criteria, status reports, status assessments and reasons, annual reports and information related to its emergency assessments. In addition to the public registry, the Government of Canada will continue to provide education and outreach services to the public through publications, posters, letters, displays and information sessions.



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National Recovery and Management Processes for Species at Risk

The National Recovery Process

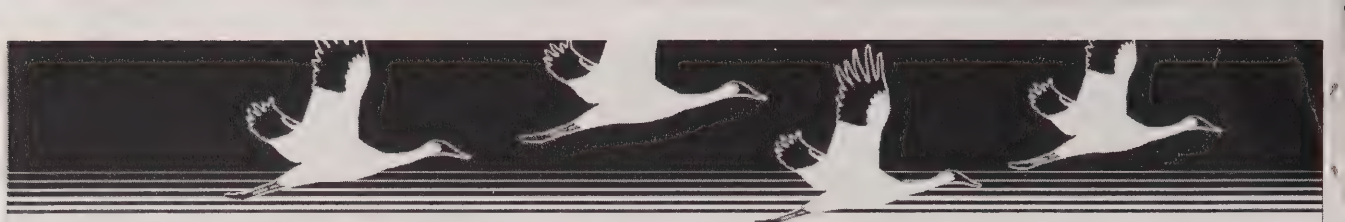
Once we know a species is at risk, we need to decide what can and should be done to help it survive and recover. Some immediate protections will be put in place for individuals of the species and their residences. Then we -- not just the government, but everyone involved -- need to decide what we want to accomplish, through the development of a recovery strategy.

Under the proposed *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), a recovery strategy will be a scientific baseline that sets out the goals and objectives for the recovery of a particular species. It will include information on what is known about the species and what we need to learn about the species. It will include information on what the threats are to the species and what we should do about those threats, including the identification of critical habitat wherever possible.

Preparation of a recovery strategy will be led by a recovery team accountable to the Ministers responsible for management of the species. The team will include wildlife experts from each of the jurisdictions and authorized wildlife management boards where the species is found. Recovery teams will call upon a wide range of people with expertise to offer, including Aboriginal traditional knowledge and local and community knowledge of the species or its habitat.

The recommendations from a recovery strategy will be implemented through a series of action plans, which will often cover a smaller geographic area and will involve many more people. Action plans will include more detailed information about what needs to be done to meet the objectives of the recovery strategy, including the identification of specific areas of critical habitat that need additional protection, if that is part of the problem for the species in question. Action plans will also include an evaluation of the socio-economic costs.

There are already a number of recovery activities under way in Canada under the Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife (RENEW) program launched in 1988, and these will be incorporated into the SARA recovery process. Under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk with the provinces and territories, and now under the proposed SARA, the scope of the national recovery process will expand to include all endangered and threatened species and, where possible, extirpated species (defined as wildlife species that no longer exist in the wild in Canada, but exist elsewhere in the wild).



There will also be a greater focus on recovery planning for groups of species or particular ecosystems, such as the south Okanagan Valley in British Columbia and the Carolinian forest in Ontario.

The national recovery process will be co-ordinated by the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (the Council) established under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. The Council will provide general direction on the development of recovery strategies and implementation of action plans and will prioritize and co-ordinate recovery actions to avoid duplication of effort.

Steps in the National Recovery Process

The main steps in the recovery process are described below.

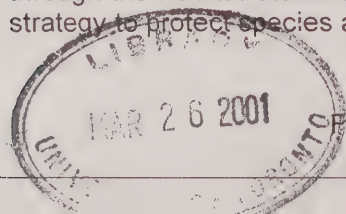
1. Immediate Response--Landowner Contact

Once a species is included in the legal list, landowners known to have individuals of listed endangered or threatened species on their land will be contacted. It is likely that most affected landowners will already know about the presence of the species on their land from population surveys or their own observations. If significant numbers of people are concerned about the potential implications of a species listing, a community meeting or public information session may be held.

Landowners and others directly affected will be informed about:

- why the species was assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as endangered or threatened and added to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk;
- the general prohibitions that come into effect when the List of Wildlife Species at Risk is established by regulation;
- the general process of species recovery;
- the possible implications for landowners;
- how the government and landowners can co-operate during the recovery process;
- ways for landowners to help protect the species (e.g., improved land use practices, conservation agreements, recovery activities); and
- economic incentives to improve land use practices (e.g., reduced taxes, conservation easements, land acquisition programs).

This step represents an opportunity for early action that can begin the moment a species is listed. Conservation actions and incentives to encourage such actions will be promoted through the Habitat Stewardship Program established by the Government as one part of its strategy to protect species at risk.





2. Forming the Recovery Team and Getting Under Way

When a species is listed under the law, the Council and relevant jurisdictions will organize recovery teams and plan a co-ordinated response to the listing. Identified recovery activities can begin immediately, even if a recovery strategy is not yet completed and in place.

The core of the national recovery team will include wildlife experts from each jurisdiction and authorized wildlife management boards where the species is found. They will call upon other scientists, experts and directly affected stakeholders as required to determine the recovery goals and objectives for the species. A single recovery team will be responsible for co-ordination of all recovery efforts for a species or group of species.

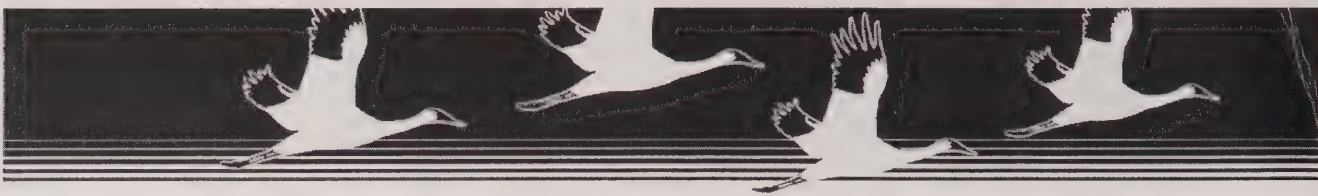
After the species has been legally listed, the affected landowners contacted and the recovery team formed, the recovery planning process will formally begin. Some recovery activities may already be under way for the species; these activities would need to be co-ordinated and linked to recovery objectives to avoid duplication of effort, to focus efforts on conservation priorities and to identify gaps in knowledge and response.

3. Recovery Strategy--Scientific Baseline Information

The first part of the two-part recovery plan is the recovery strategy. It defines the long-term goal and short-term objectives for recovering the species, based on available scientific baseline information. The recovery team will be responsible for developing a proposed recovery strategy within one year of listing for an endangered species and within two years of listing for a threatened species. The recovery team will bring together the best available scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community/landowner knowledge of a species will be included to assess the conservation threats and the ecological needs for its survival.

In the recovery strategy, the recovery team will:

- describe the species and its needs;
- identify the threats to survival of the species;
- identify the species' critical habitat unless it is not possible to do so (as discussed below);
- where critical habitat is identified, provide examples of activities that are likely to result in its destruction;
- set the goals, objectives and approaches for the recovery of the species;
- identify information gaps that should be addressed; and
- state when one or more action plans relating to the strategy will be completed.



In this way, the recovery strategy will create a scientific baseline and framework for the recovery activities to be undertaken over time. Where appropriate, a recovery strategy will adopt a multi-species or ecosystem approach. This may be especially relevant for aquatic species.

If a recovery strategy indicates recovery is not biologically or technically feasible (e.g., where individuals of the species have not been seen for many years) there will be a description of the species, its needs, its habitat and the reasons why recovery is not feasible. The basic prohibitions against harming individuals of the species or destruction of its residence would continue to apply.

Recovery strategy provisions will allow for a 60-day comment period on the proposed strategy and 30 days for its finalization. This will differentiate between the time frame for public comment, and the time required to make changes before finalizing the strategy.

Recovery plans already in place or under development, such as plans through the RENEW program or those prepared in several jurisdictions for fish and forest species, will be posted on the public registry as proposed recovery strategies provided that they substantially meet the requirements of SARA, and they too will be subject to a 60-day comment period and 30 days for finalization prior to being approved by the Minister with responsibility for the species.

Recovery strategies will be updated within five years of publication. They will be flexible to accommodate new information that might affect the approach. Any amendments will be included in the public registry.

4. Action Plan--Opportunities for Direct Involvement

The second part of recovery planning, the action plan, is an outline of projects or activities that will meet the objectives outlined in the recovery strategy. The recovery team (the same one that developed the strategy) will co-ordinate development of one or more action plans in co-operation with interested parties. Aboriginal people, landowners, resource users, conservation organizations and others interested in on-the-ground actions to benefit species at risk will be directly involved in the process, participating in planning with the core recovery team members.

Action plans will include:

- an identification of the species' critical habitat (unless it is not possible to do so) and examples of activities that are likely to affect it;
- proposed measures for protecting the critical habitat;
- identification of any portions of the critical habitat that have not been protected;



- a statement of the steps for implementing the recovery strategy and when they are to take place; and
- an evaluation of the socio-economic costs of the action plan and any implementation benefits.

Small groups of people may be organized to perform specific recovery activities under the umbrella of the recovery team. Projects could include, for example, population surveys and monitoring; habitat enhancement and restoration projects; public awareness and education campaigns; ecological, physiological or toxicological studies; and captive breeding and reintroduction of species. It will not be necessary to wait for completion and approval of the action plan to begin implementing some of these projects.

Since resources are not infinite, priorities will be established for recovery actions. Recovery action planning will take account of local and socio-economic conditions as well as species conservation needs.

When completed, a copy of the action plan will be included in the public registry. Like the recovery strategy, an action plan will be a dynamic document that can be regularly modified. The five-year update of the recovery strategy will provide an opportunity to compile and evaluate all new information to guide the next five years of planning and action. It will also include an assessment of the socio-economic costs of implementation of the strategy.

Critical Habitat

Recovery strategies will identify as clearly as possible the critical habitat of a species (the habitat necessary for its survival or recovery). If habitat information is incomplete, that identification will continue during the action planning process.

When a landowner is notified that some or all of a species' critical habitat occurs on his or her land, there are a number of ways to respond. Often, no changes in land use practices will be required, because the presence of the species would typically indicate good existing practices. If the landowner plans to change from this positive land use, a government representative will attempt to reach a voluntary agreement with the landowner. Preventative measures emphasizing stewardship and financial or other incentives will often provide the greatest level of protection for wildlife habitat.

Conservation actions by landowners and land users to protect critical habitat will be encouraged and funded through the Habitat Stewardship Program. The program will enhance existing, and encourage new, conservation activities that foster land use practices that maintain habitat critical to the survival and recovery of threatened or endangered species as identified in recovery planning. To prevent wildlife species from becoming at risk, the



program will also contribute to the implementation of management plans for species of conservation concern. Stewardship funding will be accessed through conservation and funding agreements provided for in the proposed SARA.

The Critical Habitat Safety Net

When the recovery process identifies a certain habitat as critical for a species' survival and recovery, each jurisdiction has a responsibility to protect the identified critical habitat. Stewardship and incentive measures will be the primary and preferred means for protecting critical habitat. Where such voluntary measures are impossible or not feasible, each jurisdiction, using legislation or regulation, must protect the critical habitat. The Government of Canada will protect critical habitat on federal land, and the provinces and territories have agreed under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk to protect critical habitat within their jurisdictions.

When not protected by the provinces or territories, the Minister has the authority to recommend to the Governor-in-Council an order to prohibit destruction of any designated critical habitat of a threatened or endangered species on non-federal land. The proposed *Species at Risk Act* will enable compensation to be paid to individuals, organizations, Aboriginal peoples, or businesses for losses suffered as a result of any extraordinary or unfair impact when it is necessary to prohibit destruction of critical habitat.

Where required, interim habitat protection will also be available for a listed species facing imminent threats to its survival or recovery through a ministerial recommendation to the Governor-in-Council to issue an emergency order against destruction of its habitat.

Management Plans for Species of Special Concern

The proposed *Species at Risk Act* will require preparation of management plans for species listed as being of special concern within three years of listing. A management plan differs from a recovery strategy/action plan. It sets goals and objectives for maintaining sustainable population levels of one or more species that are particularly sensitive to environmental factors, but which are not in danger of becoming extinct.

Management plans will be prepared in co-operation and consultation with affected provinces, territories, wildlife management boards, Aboriginal peoples and other stakeholders. Whenever possible, these management plans will be prepared for multiple species on an ecosystem or landscape level. Management plans for species designated as being of special concern could be incorporated into existing conservation plans such as the Great Lakes Action Plan, Saint Lawrence Vision 2000 and the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative.



Where Can I Get More Information on Recovery of Species?

A public registry will be established under the proposed SARA as the main source of information related to the Act, including information on species recovery. The registry will be developed and maintained by the Canadian Wildlife Service at Environment Canada. It will include information on aspects of protecting species at risk including listing, recovery and species-specific information.

The public registry and the Recovery Secretariat established to support the recovery planning process will provide recovery information such as:

- guidelines for the development of a recovery strategy;
- annual reports on recovery progress;
- recovery newsletters;
- draft recovery strategies;
- approved recovery strategies;
- recovery action plans;
- annual reports to Parliament; and
- five-year progress reports.

In addition, the Government of Canada will continue to provide public education outreach through such means as publications, posters and information sessions.

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Harlequin Duck

The Species at Risk Web Site

provides lots of
information on
Canada's species
at risk and their
recovery.

This web site is a partnership
effort of the Canadian Wildlife
Federation, Environment Canada,
Natural Resources Canada and
the Canadian Museum of Nature.

www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca



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PECIES at RISK ESPÈCES en PÉRIL



Photo: Brian Johns, CWS-SCF

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The Endangered Whooping Crane

A long road to recovery



Photo: Brian Johns, CWS

The plight of the endangered whooping crane has engaged the hearts and minds of conservationists for decades. Careful management of the last 16 migratory whooping cranes that remained in 1941 has given hope that this magnificent white bird will continue to grace our northern skies. From a shaky beginning, the wild flock has grown to over 180 cranes that migrate between breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park and wintering grounds in Aransas, Texas. A non-migratory flock of over 70 cranes has also been established in Florida.

Whooping cranes have probably never been numerous. Although their breeding range in the nineteenth century extended from the Northwest Territories to central Iowa and Illinois, there were only about 1500 birds in the late 1800s. Loss of breeding habitat as human settlement spread westward, with some shooting and egg collection, contributed to the severe decline of this species. Whooping cranes have been protected from killing by law since 1917, but natural hazards persist. Power lines, microwave towers and other structures pose threats to flying cranes. During the breeding season, a drought or severe storm could destroy eggs and new-born chicks. In their wintering range in coastal Texas, concern exists about ship traffic and the possibility of an oil or chemical spill and the effects of shoreline erosion on crane habitat.

Bringing the whooping crane back from the brink of extinction has been the goal of numerous concerned individuals and organizations in Canada and the United States. Leading the charge have been two federal wildlife organizations: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada. Their efforts have included sharing data and expertise, working together on captive-breeding and reintroduction programs, and establishing a joint Recovery Team.

Back From the Brink

The story of the whooping crane rescue begins in 1954, when the breeding grounds of the last whooping cranes in the world were discovered in northern Wood Buffalo National Park, making captive-rearing of cranes a possibility. In early June 1967, a team of Canadian and U.S. scientists took six eggs from Wood Buffalo National Park nests (one egg from each clutch of two eggs) for artificial incubation. A CWS biologist waded through the marshes to collect the eggs, which were then placed in a special portable incubator, heated by hot water bottles, and flown to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Between 1967 and 1996, 240 whooping crane eggs were collected with the intention of establishing a captive flock for breeding and eventually releasing offspring to bolster the wild population. This proved to be quite a challenge, as the cranes were difficult to breed in captivity and were prone to disease.

The nest disturbance did not deter the adult wild whooping cranes from successfully hatching their remaining egg. In the wild, a pair usually has two eggs, from which only one chick usually survives. By ensuring one viable egg remains in each nest after the removal of surplus eggs (this is done by testing the eggs at the nest and replacing dead eggs with living ones), the scientists may have actually increased hatching success. Since the egg collections began in 1967, the Wood Buffalo/Aransas population has increased from 43 to 185 birds (1999 estimate). Since 1993, 175 captive-bred whooping cranes have been released into the wild in Florida, to establish a non-migratory population currently numbering about 73 birds.

Future Plans

The U.S./Canada recovery plan for the whooping crane calls for a minimum of 40 breeding pairs in the Wood Buffalo/Aransas population, and the establishment of two additional wild populations, each with at least 25 breeding pairs. The first goal has now been achieved, since there were 48 pairs breeding in Wood Buffalo National Park in 1999. The wild population established in Florida needs to be brought up to at least 100 individuals and to have successful breeding. In 1999 there were 2 pairs that laid eggs, however neither nest hatched, due to predation and flooding. The possibility of establishing a second wild flock, a migratory one with breeding grounds in Wisconsin, is being investigated. Scientists on both sides of the border are experimenting with the use of trucks and ultra-light planes to teach captive-bred cranes the migratory behaviour they would normally learn from their parents.

To report sightings,
or obtain more
information

A network of enthusiasts throughout Canada and the United States report sightings of whooping cranes each spring and fall along the migration route, helping officials keep track of crane numbers. The Canadian phone number is 306.975.5595. In the United States, sightings in Texas may be reported to 361.286.3559, and sightings in other states to 308.382.6468.

For more information on the Recovery of Species at Risk, please call

1.800.668.6767

or visit our web site at

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/sara



Photo: Kent Clegg

La Grue blanche en danger de disparition

Une longue route vers le rétablissement

La situation critique de la Grue blanche en danger de disparition occupe le cœur et l'esprit des protecteurs de l'environnement depuis des décennies. Une gestion prudente des 16 dernières Grues blanches migratrices encore en vie en 1941 a permis d'espérer que ce magnifique oiseau blanc puisse continuer d'embellir notre ciel septentrional. Alors qu'elle a connu un début difficile, la population sauvage a augmenté jusqu'à plus de 180 Grues qui migrent entre des sites de reproduction situés dans le parc national Wood Buffalo et des aires d'hivernage situées à Aransas au Texas. Une population sédentaire comptant plus de 70 Grues a également été établie en Floride.

Les Grues blanches n'ont probablement jamais été nombreuses. Bien que leurs aires de reproduction se soient étendues des Territoires du Nord-Ouest jusqu'au centre de l'Iowa et en Illinois au cours du dix-neuvième siècle, on ne comptait qu'environ 1500 oiseaux à la fin des années 1800. La perte d'habitats de reproduction lorsque les humains se sont dispersés vers l'ouest, ainsi que la collecte des oeufs et la chasse, ont contribué au grave déclin de cette espèce. La loi interdit de chasser les Grues blanches depuis 1917, mais les risques naturels persistent. Les lignes de transport d'électricité, les pylônes à micro-ondes et d'autres structures présentent un danger pour les Grues en vol. Durant la saison de reproduction, une sécheresse ou une sévère tempête pourrait détruire les oeufs et les oisillons nouveaux-nés. Quant à leurs aires de reproduction situées sur la côte du Texas, des inquiétudes se font sentir relativement au trafic maritime et à la possibilité d'un déversement de pétrole ou de produits chimiques, ainsi qu'aux effets de l'érosion des rivages sur l'habitat de la Grue.

Le rétablissement de la Grue blanche alors qu'elle était presque disparue a été le but de nombreuses personnes et de nombreux organismes préoccupés par le sort de cet oiseau au Canada et aux États-Unis. À leur tête se trouvent deux organismes fédéraux de la faune : le United States Fish and Wildlife Service du Department of the Interior et le Service canadien de la faune (SCF) d'Environnement Canada. Leurs efforts ont compris le partage des données et des connaissances spécialisées, la collaboration au niveau des programmes de reproduction en captivité et de réintroduction ainsi que la mise sur pied d'une équipe conjointe de rétablissement.

Sauvée de justesse

L'histoire du rétablissement de la Grue blanche débute en 1954, lorsque les aires de reproduction des dernières Grues blanches au monde ont été découvertes dans le nord du parc national Wood Buffalo, rendant l'élevage des Grues possible. Au début du mois de juin 1967, une équipe de scientifiques canadiens et américains a pris six oeufs dans les nids du parc national Wood Buffalo, soit un oeuf de chaque ponte de deux oeufs, pour l'incubation artificielle. Un biologiste du SCF a patrouillé dans les marais afin de recueillir les oeufs, qui ont par la suite été placés dans un incubateur spécial portatif, chauffé à l'aide de bouteilles d'eau chaude, et acheminé par avion au Patuxent Wildlife Research Center situé dans le Maryland. Entre 1967 et 1996, 240 oeufs de Grues blanches ont été recueillis dans le but d'établir une bande en captivité aux fins de reproduction et de relâcher à la longue une descendance afin de renforcer la population sauvage. Cela s'est avéré un défi de taille, car il était difficile de faire l'élevage des Grues en captivité, et celles-ci étaient sujettes à la maladie.

La perturbation du nid n'a pas empêché les Grues blanches adultes de couvrir l'oeuf restant jusqu'à éclosion. Dans la nature, un couple a en général deux oeufs, desquels seulement un oisillon survit. En s'assurant qu'un oeuf viable soit demeuré dans chaque nid après la prise des oeufs en trop (réalisé en examinant les oeufs dans le nid même et en remplaçant les oeufs morts par des vivants), les scientifiques pourraient en réalité avoir augmenté le taux de succès d'éclosion. Depuis le commencement de la collecte d'oeufs en 1967, la population de Wood Buffalo et d'Aransas est passée de 43 à 185 individus (estimation de 1999). Depuis 1993, 175 Grues blanches nées en captivité ont été relâchées dans la nature en Floride, afin d'établir une population sédentaire comptant actuellement environ 73 individus.

Plans futurs

Le plan de rétablissement États-Unis-Canada pour la Grue blanche nécessite un minimum de 40 couples reproducteurs dans la population du parc national Wood Buffalo et d'Aransas, ainsi que l'établissement de deux populations sauvages supplémentaires, chacune comptant au moins 25 couples reproducteurs. Le but premier a déjà été atteint, étant donné qu'il y avait 48 couples reproducteurs dans le parc national Wood Buffalo en 1999. La population sauvage établie en Floride a bien débuté, augmentant à au moins 100 individus et d'obtenir du succès quant à la reproduction. En 1999, deux couples ont pondu des oeufs, cependant, aucun de ceux-ci n'a éclos en raison de la prédation et des inondations. La possibilité d'établir une deuxième bande sauvage, soit une bande migratrice dont les aires de reproduction se situeraient dans le Wisconsin, est présentement examinée. Des scientifiques des deux côtés de la frontière font présentement des essais à l'aide de camions et d'avions ultra-légers afin d'enseigner aux Grues nées en captivité le comportement migrateur qu'ils auraient appris en temps normal avec leurs parents.



Pour signaler l'observation de Grues blanches ou pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements

Un réseau d'amateurs partout au Canada et aux États-Unis fait état des observations des Grues blanches aperçues à chaque printemps et à chaque automne le long de la voie de migration, ce qui aide les agents responsables à se tenir au courant du nombre de Grues.
Le numéro de téléphone au Canada est le **306.975.5595**. Aux États-Unis, les Grues observées au Texas peuvent être signalées au **361.286.3559**, et dans les autres États au **308.382.6468**.

Pour de plus amples renseignements au sujet du rétablissement des espèces en péril, veuillez composer le **1.800.668.6767**

ou visiter notre site Web à l'adresse

www.cws-sef.ec.gc.ca/lpep



Environnement
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

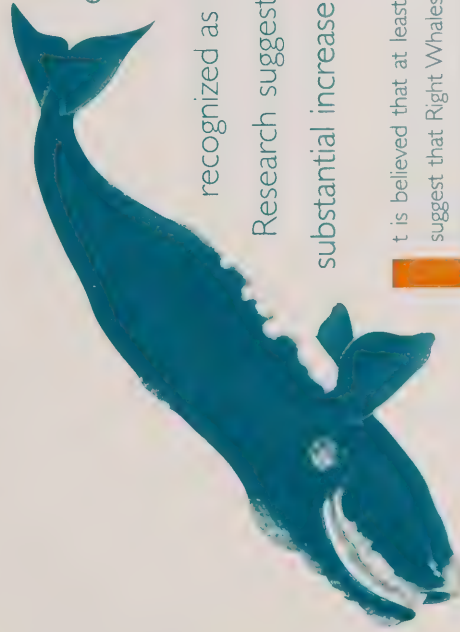
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The Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale



*Photo by
Guide to Watching Whales in Canada,
Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

The future of North Atlantic Right Whales, which are near extinction, has become a topic of public concern, nationally and internationally. Numbering only 300-350 individuals, this whale is recognized as one of the most critically endangered large mammals in the world. Research suggests that the population is essentially stable, with no evidence of a substantial increase or decrease in numbers in recent years.

It is believed that at least 10,000 Right Whales once lived in the northern Atlantic Ocean. Historical records suggest that Right Whales were once found in most of the continental shelf areas of the North Atlantic, from northwest Africa to the southeast United States. In Canadian waters, these whales are now found primarily in the lower Bay of Fundy and waters off Nova Scotia.

Threats to Survival

The hunting of Right Whales was a very lucrative industry due in part to the large quantity of available oil and baleen. "Baleen" was used extensively by manufacturers for domestic goods such as umbrellas, corset stays, buggy whips, and almost any current product that uses plastic. The harvesting of Right Whales was easy because they move slowly, float upon death and are found close to shore. By virtue of these characteristics, this species became the favourite target of whalers and was the "right" whale to hunt. The whalers hunted them to the brink of extinction in the 1800s. In 1935, the League of Nations passed a resolution to protect Right Whales from being hunted. It was followed by a ban on harvesting Right Whales by the International Whaling Commission in 1949. In 1990, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada designated the Right Whale as "Endangered".

Factors that continue to affect this species' future abundance are vessel collisions and entanglements in fishing gear. Disturbance can also occur from whale-watching activities resulting in the disruption of their daily activities. Other negative

The Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale



Illustration:
Guide to Watching Whales in Canada,
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Factors that continue to affect this species' future abundance are vessel collisions and entanglements in fishing gear. Disturbance can also occur from whale-watching activities resulting in the disruption of their daily activities. Other negative activities are underwater noises, such as those potentially associated with oil and gas exploration and development, military exercises and harbour construction, which can cause hearing damage and stress the mammals.

By mammalian standards, Right Whales have a long developmental cycle. Female Right Whales have their first calf at around 8 years of age. Their lifetime productivity (births per female) is low, with one calf every 4 to 5 years. It is estimated that there are only 60 breeding females in the entire population of Right Whales.

The Role of Canada and its Recovery Plan

The role of Canada in protecting Right Whales and promoting their recovery is crucial because a very high proportion of the North Atlantic population spends all or part of the summer and autumn months in Canadian waters.

Bringing the Right Whale back from the edge of extinction is the goal of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund (Canada) has developed the Canadian Recovery Plan for the North Atlantic Right Whale. Other participants include researchers and scientists, and representatives of the fishing, shipping and tourism industries in the Maritimes.

The recovery plan is intended as a blueprint for action by Canadians to improve the species' chances of survival and recovery. Although it may take more than 20 years, the overall goal of the recovery plan is for the Right Whale population to reach an interim target size of 1200 individuals. The recovery plan's main objectives are to reduce the frequency with which Right Whales are struck by vessels and incidences of entanglement and entrapment with fishing gear.

The recovery effort will be considered successful when the population is at a level that justifies down-listing its status from endangered to threatened, according to criteria established by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Public Participation

Right Whales frequently spend periods at the surface foraging and participating in social activities. For reasons not well understood, they do not seem to be aware of approaching ships and therefore, are extremely vulnerable to collisions. Mariners who operate vessels in areas where Right Whales occur should be aware of the increased risk of collisions and the need for caution when in the presence of these whales. As an example of public participation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada established *The Whale Emergency Network*, made up of a group of volunteers, to undertake the disentanglement of Right Whales and other large whales.



Photo: New England Aquarium

Report Sightings, or Obtain More Information

It is very important to report, as promptly as possible, collisions with Right Whales and sightings of carcasses. People should also report any harassment or hunting of threatened or endangered species, such as the North Atlantic Right Whale, to their local Fisheries and Oceans Canada office.

For more information on the North Atlantic Right Whale or to report an incident, please call Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Species at Risk Office

902.426.6947

For more information on the Recovery of Species at Risk, please call

1.800.668.6767

Or visit the Species at Risk Web site at

www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

La baleine franche de l'Atlantique Nord, espèce en voie de disparition

Au pays comme à l'échelle internationale, on craint pour l'avenir de la baleine franche de l'Atlantique Nord, espèce presque disparue maintenant. Avec sa population de 300 à 350 individus seulement, cette baleine est l'un des grands mammifères les plus gravement menacés de disparition au monde. D'après nos recherches, sa population est essentiellement stable et n'aurait pas augmenté ni diminué de façon substantielle ces dernières années.



On estime qu'entre 10 000 et 50 000 baleines franches peuplaient jadis l'Atlantique Nord. Les récits historiques font état de leur présence, autrefois, le long de presque tous les plateaux continentaux de l'Atlantique Nord, du nord-ouest de l'Afrique au sud-est des États-Unis. De nos jours, en eaux canadiennes, ces baleines se voient surtout à l'embouchure de la baie de Fundy et au large de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Les menaces pour sa survie

La chasse de la baleine franche était une industrie des plus lucratives parce qu'elle procurait huile et fanons en abondance. Les fanons étaient largement utilisés pour la fabrication de biens domestiques comme les parapluies, les corsets, les fouets de cocher et presque tout autre objet courant aujourd'hui fait de plastique. La baleine franche était très facile à capturer, car elle est lente, flotte quand elle est morte et se tient près des côtes. De ce fait, cette baleine était la proie favorite des chasseurs, ravis d'avoir les coudées « franches » dans leurs poursuites. Durant les années 1800, la chasse a failli entraîner la disparition de l'espèce. En 1935, la Ligue des Nations a adopté une résolution pour protéger la baleine franche, et en 1949, c'était au tour de la Commission baleinière internationale d'intervenir en interdisant la chasse de cette espèce. En 1990, le Comité sur le statut des espèces menacées de disparition au Canada inscrivait la baleine franche sur la liste des espèces « en voie de disparition ».

Aujourd'hui, l'avenir de l'espèce est toujours affecté par la possibilité de collision avec des navires et d'enchevêtrement dans des engins de pêche. Les excursions d'observation peuvent également perturber la vie quotidienne de la baleine franche. Parmi les autres activités néfastes on retrouve les bruits sous-marins, par exemple ceux qui sont associés à l'exploration et l'exploitation du pétrole et du gaz, aux exercices militaires et à la construction portuaire, et qui peuvent endommager l'ouïe des mammifères et leur causer du stress.

La baleine franche a un développement plutôt lent, même pour un mammifère. Les femelles portent leur premier baleineau vers l'âge de 8 ans et leur productivité (nombre de naissances par femelle) est faible, avoisinant un baleineau tous les 4-5 ans. Toute la population de baleines franches ne compterait que 60 femelles reproductrices.

Le rôle du Canada et de son plan de rétablissement

Le Canada joue un rôle crucial dans la protection de la baleine franche et la promotion de son rétablissement. En effet, une part très élevée de la population de l'Atlantique Nord passe la totalité ou une partie de l'été et de l'automne en eaux canadiennes. Pêches et Océans Canada s'est donné pour but d'éloigner la baleine franche du gouffre de la disparition. Avec l'aide du Fonds mondial pour la nature (Canada), il a établi le Plan canadien de rétablissement de la baleine franche de l'Atlantique Nord. Participent également à ce programme chercheurs et scientifiques ainsi que des représentants des industries de la pêche, du transport maritime et du tourisme des Maritimes.

Le plan de rétablissement se veut un modèle d'action que les Canadiens peuvent suivre pour améliorer les chances de survie et le rétablissement des espèces. Même s'il peut lui falloir plus de 20 ans pour être mené à bien, le plan vise à ramener la population de la baleine franche à un niveau cible intermédiaire de 1 200 individus. Ses principaux objectifs sont de réduire la fréquence des collisions avec les navires et les incidences d'enchevêtrement dans les engins de pêche.

L'effort de rétablissement sera considéré fructueux quand la population de la baleine franche aura atteint un niveau lui permettant de passer de la catégorie des espèces en voie de disparition à celle des espèces menacées, suivant les critères établis par le Comité sur le statut des espèces menacées de disparition au Canada.

Participation du public

Il arrive souvent à la baleine franche de rester à la surface pour se nourrir ou socialiser. Pour des raisons qui nous échappent encore, elle ne semble pas consciente des navires et est donc extrêmement vulnérable aux collisions. Tout navigateur approuvé fréquentant l'aire de répartition de la baleine franche doit être informé des risques accrus de collision et de la nécessité d'être prudent en présence de ces baleines. Pour promouvoir la participation du public, par exemple, Pêches et Océans Canada a mis en place un réseau « urgence-baleine » composé de bénévoles qui se chargent de dégager les baleines franches et d'autres espèces marines emprisonnées dans des filets.



Photo: New England Aquarium

Signaler ses observations ou obtenir d'autres informations

Il est très important de signaler, dès que possible, les collisions avec des baleines franches ou la découverte de carcasses. Il convient aussi d'informer votre bureau local de Pêches et Océans Canada de toute incidence de harcèlement ou de chasse d'une espèce menacée ou en danger, comme la baleine franche de l'Atlantique Nord.

Pour plus d'information sur la baleine franche de l'Atlantique Nord ou pour signaler un incident, contactez le Bureau des espèces en péril de Pêches et Océans Canada au

902.426.6947

Pour plus d'information sur le rétablissement des espèces en péril, composez le

1.800.668.6767

ou visitez le site Web des espèces en péril à l'adresse www.especesenperil.gc.ca

SPECIES at RISK ESPÈCES en PÉRIL

THE ENDANGERED
NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

LA BALEINE FRANCHE DE L'ATLANTIQUE
EN VOIE DE DISPARITION

Only 300-350 individuals left off the east coast of North America ~ Il ne



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of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



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Photo: New England Aquarium

ste que 300-350 individus au large de la côte est de l'Amérique du Nord

Canada

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NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INTRODUCES SPECIES AT RISK ACT

Ottawa, February 2, 2001 – Environment Minister David Anderson introduced the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in the House of Commons today. The main objective of SARA is to help prevent wildlife in Canada from becoming extinct and to provide for the recovery of species at risk.

"The Government of Canada is proposing an effective approach for the protection of species and their critical habitats, wherever they are in Canada," stated Minister Anderson. "This proposed legislation reflects more than seven years of dialogue with Canadians. This version incorporates a number of useful suggestions made by individuals and groups. These amendments respect the intent and spirit of the bill while improving its clarity and effectiveness," noted Anderson.

The proposed legislation covers all wildlife species listed as being at risk and their critical habitats. The Act will, for the first time, legally recognize the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and provide for rigorous, independent and scientific assessments that will be made public. The COSEWIC list will be included in a public registry to be established under the proposed Act. SARA also provides the authority to prohibit the killing of *endangered* or *threatened* species and the destruction of their critical habitats on all lands in Canada, and provides emergency authority to protect species in imminent danger.

"Canadians want to help protect species at risk and their habitats. The Government of Canada is creating a framework for the protection of species at risk that will achieve results on the ground by using incentives as the preferred approach, backed up with strong legal protections and the ability of the Government of Canada to act alone when necessary," said Minister Anderson.

SARA complements the roles of the provinces and territories, and involves landowners, land users, Aboriginal peoples and citizens in the recovery process. Other features include use of the best available scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge in the assessment process and in the design of recovery planning, as well as incentives for conservation measures and compensation provisions.

"In December, I was pleased to receive the report on compensation prepared by Dr. Peter H. Pearce, whom I had asked to suggest principles for providing compensation under federal legislation. This important report will provide a good basis for developing a regulatory framework for compensation," stated Anderson.

The Species at Risk Act is complemented by a stewardship program that empowers Canadians to take voluntary actions to protect habitat, and the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk that unifies the efforts of provinces, territories and the Government of Canada on this issue. Strong, effective legislation will help to fulfill commitments the Government of Canada has made to Canadians and to the rest of the world, as part of a long-term national conservation agenda.

"Our approach is already producing results through voluntary activities by Canadians who are taking action to help protect species, protect habitat and conserve biodiversity where it matters most – on the land and in our streams, oceans and forests," noted Minister Anderson.

Budget 2000 contained a Government of Canada commitment of \$90 million over three years, and stabilized funding of \$45 million in subsequent years for the protection of species at risk. Through the new Habitat Stewardship Program, the Government of Canada has already contributed approximately five million dollars to over 60 partnership projects with local and regional organizations and communities. Budget 2000 also made it easier for Canadians to donate ecologically sensitive lands and easements by reducing the capital gains arising from such donations through the EcoGifts Program. These partnership and incentives programs will extend habitat protection in all parts of Canada.

The timing of the introduction of this proposed legislation is particularly auspicious because this is the day Canada and its partners in conservation celebrate World Wetlands Day. Wetlands are one of the most threatened habitats in Canada and home to more than thirty percent of this country's species at risk.

"With the proposed Species at Risk Act, we are building on Canada's heritage of stewardship and protecting our wildlife for future generations," concluded Minister Anderson. "This approach will help to ensure that Canada remains a leader in the protection of all species."

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For additional information:

Johanne Beaulieu
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of the Environment
(819) 953-0839

Fact sheets and background material can be found on www.ec.gc.ca



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du Canada

Government
of Canada

Canada

(également disponible en français)

English names of species at risk*

April 1999 — April 2000

According to the Committee on the Status of the Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)

Definitions of terms used by COSEWIC

SPECIES: any indigenous taxonomic species, subspecies, variety or geographically defined population of wild fauna and flora.

EXTINCT species no longer exist.

EXTIRPATED species no longer exist in the wild in Canada, but they occur elsewhere.

ENDANGERED species are facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

THREATENED species are likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.

VULNERABLE species are of special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

A more detailed list — *Canadian species at risk* — is also available. It includes geographical occurrence, year of designation, scientific name, lists of not-at-risk and indeterminate species, and more information about COSEWIC and its mandate. Contact:

Publications
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
(819) 997-1095
cws-scf@ec.gc.ca

More detailed information is also available on the following Web site:

<http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/Species/English/>

Canada

*Une version française est disponible sous le titre *Noms français des espèces en péril*.

Birds at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
Great Auk Labrador Duck Passenger Pigeon	Greater Prairie-Chicken Sage Grouse, British Columbia population	Acadian Flycatcher Barn Owl, Eastern population Burrowing Owl Eskimo Curlew Harlequin Duck, Eastern population Henslow's Sparrow King Rail Kirtland's Warbler Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern population Mountain Plover Northern Bobwhite Northern Spotted Owl Piping Plover Prothonotary Warbler Roseate Tern Sage Grouse, Prairie population Sage Thrasher Whooping Crane	Anatum Peregrine Falcon Hooded Warbler Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie population Marbled Murrelet Sprague's Pipit White-headed Woodpecker Yellow-breasted Chat, British Columbia population	Ancient Murrelet Barn Owl, Western population Bicknell's Thrush Cerulean Warbler Ferruginous Hawk Flammulated Owl Ipswich Savannah Sparrow Ivory Gull Least Bittern Lewis' Woodpecker Long-billed Curlew Louisiana Waterthrush Pacific Great Blue Heron Peale's Peregrine Falcon Queen Charlotte Goshawk Red-headed Woodpecker Red-shouldered Hawk Ross' Gull Short-eared Owl Tundra Peregrine Falcon Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern population Yellow Rail

Butterflies and moths at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
	Frosted Elfin Butterfly Island Marble Butterfly Kaner Blue Butterfly	Maritime Ringlet Butterfly		Monarch Butterfly

Mammals at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
Terrestrial mammals				
Woodland Caribou, Queen Charlotte Islands population	Black-footed Ferret Grizzly Bear, Prairie population	American Marten, Newfoundland population Peary Caribou, High Arctic and Banks Island populations Swift Fox Vancouver Island Marmot Wolverine, Eastern population	Pacific Water Shrew Peary Caribou, Low Arctic population Townsend's Mole Wood Bison Woodland Caribou, Gaspé population	Black-tailed Prairie Dog Eastern Mole Ermine, Queen Charlotte Islands population Fringed Myotis Bat Gaspé Shrew Grey Fox Grizzly Bear Keen's Long-eared Bat Mountain Beaver Nuttall's Cottontail, British Columbia population Woodland Vole
Marine mammals				
Sea Mink	Atlantic Walrus, Atlantic coastal waters population Gray Whale, Atlantic population	Beluga (White Whale), Ungava Bay population, Southeast Baffin Island / Cumberland Sound population, St. Lawrence River population Bowhead Whale, Eastern Arctic and Western Arctic populations Right Whale	Beluga (White Whale), Eastern Hudson Bay population Harbour Porpoise, Northwest Atlantic population Humpback Whale, North Pacific population Killer Whale, North Pacific "transient" population Pacific "resident" populations Sea Otter	Beluga (White Whale), Eastern High Arctic / Baffin Bay population Blue Whale Fin Whale Harbour Seal, Lacs des Loups Marins population Humpback Whale, Western North Atlantic population Killer Whale, North Pacific "transient" population Northern Bottlenose Whale, Gully population Sowerby's Beaked Whale

Plants at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
Blue-eyed Mary Illinois Tick Trefoil	American Ginseng Bearded Owl Clover Bluehearts Cucumber Tree Deltoid Balsamroot Drooping Trillium Eastern Mountain Avens Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus Engelmann's Quillwort Furbish's Louisewort Gattinger's Agalinis Heart-leaved Plantain Hoary Mountain Mint Juniper Sedge Large Whorled Pogonia Long's Braya Nodding Pogonia Pink Coreopsis Pink Milkwort	Pitcher's Thistle Prairie Lupine Purple Twayblade Red Mulberry Scarlet Ammania Seaside Birds-foot Lotus Showy Goldenrod Skinner's Agalinis Slender Bush Clover Slender Mouse-ear-cress Small White Lady's-slipper Small Whorled Pogonia Southern Maidenhair Fern Spotted Wintergreen Thread-leaved Sundew Tiny Cryptanthus Toothcup Water-plantain Buttercup Western Prairie White Fringed Orchid White Prairie Gentian Wood Poppy	American Chestnut American Water-willow Anticosti Aster Bird's-foot Violet Blue Ash Blunt-lobed Woodsia Colicroot Deerberry False Hop Sedge Fernald's Braya Goat's-rue Golden Crest Golden Paintbrush Goldenseal Hairy Prairie-clover Kentucky Coffee Tree Mosquito Fern Plymouth Gentian Redroot Round-leaved Greenbrier, Ontario population	American Columbo Athabasca Thrift Bathurst Aster Bolander's Quillwort Branched Bartonnia Broad Beech Fern Buffalograss Climbing Prairie Rose Coastal Wood Fern Crooked-stemmed Aster Dense Blazing Star Dwarf Hackberry Eastern Prairie White Fringed Orchid False Rue-anemone Fernald's Milk-vetch Few-flowered Club-rush Giant Helleborine Green Dragon Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster Hare-footed Locoweed Hill's Pondweed Hop Tree Indian Plantain
			Sand Verbena Small-flowered Lipocarpha Sweet Pepperbush van Brunt's Jacob's Ladder Water-pennywort Western Blue Flag Western Spiderwort White-top Aster White Wood Aster Yellow Montane Violet	Lilaopsis Long's Bulrush Mackenzie Hairgrass Macoun's Meadowfoam New Jersey Rush Phantom Orchid Provancher's Fleabane Shumard Oak Smooth Goosefoot Soapweed Swamp Rose Mallow Victorin's Gentian Victorin's Water Hemlock Western Silver-leaf Aster Wild Hyacinth Willow Aster

Fish at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
Banff Longnose Dace	Gravel Chub	Atlantic Whitefish	Benthic Paxton Lake Stickleback	Northern Brook Lamprey
Benthic Hadley Lake Stickleback	Paddlefish	Aurora Trout	Benthic Vananda Creek Stickleback	Northern Madtom
Blue Walleye		Nooksack Dace	Black Redhorse	Orangespotted Sunfish
Deepwater Cisco		Salish Sucker	Blackfin Cisco	Pacific Sardine
Limnetic Hadley Lake Stickleback			Channel Darter	Pugnose Minnow
Longjaw Cisco			Copper Redhorse	Pugnose Shiner
			Deepwater Sculpin, Great Lakes population	Redbreast Sunfish
			Eastern Sand Darter, Nova Scotia population	Redside Dace
			Enos Lake Stickleback	River Redhorse
			Lake Simcoe Whitefish	Rosyface Shiner, Manitoba population
			Lake Utopia Dwarf Smelt	Shortnose Sturgeon
			Limnetic Paxton Lake Stickleback	Silver Chub
			Limnetic Vananda Creek Stickleback	Silver Shiner
			Margined Madtom	Speckled Dace
			Morrison Creek Lamprey	Spotted Gar
			Shorthead Sculpin	Spotted Sucker
			Shortjaw Cisco	Spring Cisco
			Shortnose Cisco	Squanga Whitefish
				Umatilla Dace
				Warmouth
				Western Silvery Minnow
				White Sturgeon

Amphibians and reptiles at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable		
	Pygmy Short-horned Lizard, British Columbia population	Blue Racer Lake Erie Water Snake Leatherback Turtle Northern Cricket Frog Northern Leopard Frog, Southern Mountain population Sharp-tailed Snake Oregon Spotted Frog	Black Rat Snake Blanding's Turtle, Nova Scotia population Eastern Fox Snake Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Fowler's Toad Queen Snake Spiny Softshell Turtle	Butler's Garter Snake Coeur d'Alene Salamander Eastern Hognose Snake Eastern Short-horned Lizard Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer Five-lined Skink Great Basin Spadefoot Toad	Great Plains Toad Mountain Dusky Salamander Northern Leopard Frog, Prairie population Northern Prairie Skink Northern Red-legged Frog	Pacific Giant Salamander Smallmouth Salamander Spotted Turtle Spring Salamander Wood Turtle

Lichens and mosses at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
		Seaside Centipede	Apple Moss	Cryptic Paw Oldgrowth Specklebelly Seaside Bone

Molluscs at risk in Canada, 1999

Extinct	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Vulnerable
Eelgrass Limpet	Dwarf Wedgemussel	Hotwater Physa Northern Riffleshell Rayed Bean Wavy-rayed Lamprussel	Banff Springs Snail Northern Abalone	

News Release



**Minister Anderson Appoints Dr. Peter H. Pearce
to Review Compensation Issues
Under the Proposed Species at Risk Act**

Ottawa, April 11-The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, announced today that he has asked Dr. Peter H. Pearce to review the issues and provide advice regarding compensation for affected landowners under the federal government's proposed *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Minister Anderson tabled the proposed legislation earlier today in the House of Commons.

"Dr. Pearce brings years of experience in natural resource economics," said Minister Anderson. "I am confident that this experience will help us design a compensation regime that Canadians will find both fair and objective."

The compensation measures of the proposed *Species at Risk Act* will form the basis of a discussion paper, which in turn will be used as a basis for drafting the compensation regulations under SARA.

Minister Anderson has chosen Dr. Pearce to review the issue on the basis of his experience and expertise in natural resources management, conservation and policy. Dr. Pearce will provide recommendations to Minister Anderson on the principles of the federal compensation scheme.

Dr. Pearce spent most of his academic career at the University of British Columbia as a professor of economics and forestry, where he is Professor Emeritus. He is currently a consultant on natural resource issues as well as a director with World Wildlife Fund Canada. He has conducted two Royal Commissions on fisheries and forestry policy in Canada and two public inquiries, one on water resources and one on freshwater fisheries. Dr. Pearce has served as an advisor to foreign governments and international organizations on natural resources issues.

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News Release

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TABLES SPECIES AT RISK ACT TO PROTECT WILDLIFE FROM EXTINCTION

Ottawa, April 11, 2000 – Environment Minister David Anderson today introduced legislation in the House of Commons that will protect endangered Canadian wildlife from extinction. The objective of the legislation is to help birds, fish, mammals, plants and insects at risk of extinction to recover to sustainable levels. The legislation represents a balanced, practical approach for the protection of species and their habitats.

The proposed *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) provides the authority to prohibit the destruction of endangered or threatened species and their critical habitat on all lands in Canada. The Act also provides the emergency authority to list species in imminent danger.

“Canadians want all species at risk protected. By combining incentives with strong legal protections and the ability of the federal government to act alone when necessary, the Government of Canada is creating a workable species protection system that will achieve concrete results,” said Minister Anderson. This Act complements the roles of the provinces and territories, and involves landowners, land users, Aboriginal peoples, fishing interests and citizens in the recovery process.

The proposed legislation covers all wildlife species listed as being at risk and their critical habitats. The Act will, for the first time, legally recognize the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and provide for rigorous, independent and public scientific assessments. The Minister must report annually to Parliament in response to COSEWIC’s scientific assessments as well as federal activities to recover species.

“Our first line of defense will be to protect habitat through conservation and voluntary measures. We have tough choices to make to protect endangered species and we will maximize success by working together,” said Minister Anderson. “But where other methods fail, the federal government will step in with prohibitions on the destruction of critical habitat on federal, provincial and private lands and prohibitions on the killing of endangered and threatened species.”

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Other features include using the best available scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge for the design of recovery planning for species listed as endangered and threatened, as well as incentives for conservation measures and compensation provisions.

Minister Anderson noted that the legislation is part of a comprehensive approach to species at risk. "Our species at risk strategy relies on three important elements to protect those now at risk and prevent others from being threatened," he said. "These elements are the *Species at Risk Act* I have tabled today, the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* endorsed by provinces and territories, and effective stewardship programs."

Budget 2000 contained a Government of Canada commitment of \$90 million over three years, and stabilized funding at \$45 million in subsequent years for the national strategy on species at risk. Budget 2000 made it easier for Canadians to donate ecologically sensitive lands and easements by reducing the capital gains arising from such donations.

"Today, we have introduced a balanced and effective piece of legislation," said Minister Anderson. "With the Species at Risk Act, we are building on Canada's heritage of stewardship and protecting our wildlife for future generations."

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Fact sheets and background material can be found on www.ec.gc.ca

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BACKGROUND

Ecological Gifts

Since 1995, the Ecological Gifts Program has become an increasingly valuable tool in conserving threatened habitats and biodiversity across Canada. The new measures announced in Budget 2000 further enhance this legislative tool. This program increases the financial incentives for private landowners and corporations to donate ecologically sensitive lands to conservation organizations and to get more involved in the stewardship of these lands.

The Existing Program

Administered by Environment Canada, the Ecological Gifts Program facilitates the donation of privately held lands certified as ecologically sensitive anywhere in Canada. This program deals with the donation of lands and conservation easements, covenants or servitudes owned by private citizens or corporations. Recipient agencies may be municipalities, Crown agencies or any one of about 130 environmental charities including land trusts and conservancies across Canada. The success of this program rests on its partnerships with the provincial and territorial governments as well as the non-government community.

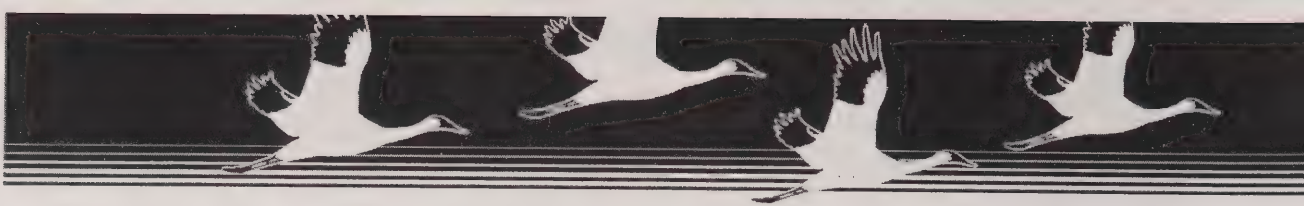
Since 1995, the program has received almost 200 ecological gift donations totaling more than 18,000 ha of ecologically significant land in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Québec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

This program protects habitats that are critically important to wildlife including species at risk, which are present on about one third of the gifted lands. To date, approximately 50% of the gifts have included wetlands, 25% prairie grasslands, 35% forested habitats, 20% riverine and riparian habitats, and just over 5% include coastal and shoreline properties. The lands donated, in approximately 35% of the cases, are habitats used by waterfowl and shore birds in their great continental migrations each year, and 15% are donations of critical fish or amphibian aquatic habitat. Finally, many sites are recognized as having national or international significance.

Donors of ecological gifts receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of their donation which results in reducing their federal and provincial income taxes.

For more information: www.ec.gc.ca





The Increased Tax Incentive

Under the new provisions of Budget 2000, all ecological gifts now benefit from a 50% reduction of the taxable capital gains. This means that only 25% of any deemed capital gain associated with a donation is taxable.

Henceforth, donors of ecological gifts are now required to submit appraisals performed by independent, accredited appraisers. The fair market value for tax purposes is determined by the Minister of the Environment through the *Appraisal Review and Determination Process*. This process ensures the certainty of the value of ecological gift donations and therefore, the value of the donor's tax receipt.

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BACKGROUND

Habitat Stewardship Program

What Is Stewardship?

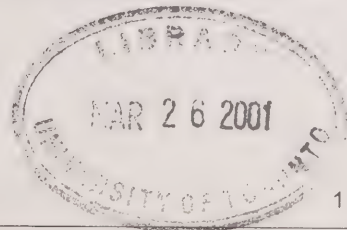
Stewardship refers to the wide range of voluntary actions that Canadians take to care for the environment. Activities range from monitoring and conserving wildlife species and the places where they live (their *habitat*), to protecting and improving the quality of soil, water, air and other natural resources. These types of conservation activities, particularly those that protect habitat, are essential to the recovery of species at risk. They are also instrumental in preventing other species from becoming at risk in the first place.

Who is involved in Stewardship activities?

Canadians from all walks of life are involved in many stewardship activities in urban areas, on public lands, on private lands, in marine areas and on Aboriginal lands across the country. Some of the ongoing stewardship activities that benefit species at risk include :

- Installing nest boxes in Ontario and Québec for several species of birds, including the Prothonotary Warbler and the Barn Owl;
- Monitoring marine mammal populations and protecting important breeding habitats from disturbance in northern Québec, NWT and Nunavut;
- Developing selective fishing methods to ensure that fish and other aquatic species at risk are not caught accidentally in nets set for other species;
- Involving Aboriginal communities in the conservation of declining fish species in BC; and
- Sponsoring community-based projects in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to restore riverbanks and prevent soil erosion.

Working through partnerships is the key to making stewardship a successful conservation tool in Canada. Federal and provincial governments encourage action by providing scientific information and technical assistance, as well as economic incentives. Non-governmental organizations help private landowners and concerned citizens to identify and implement effective stewardship activities. Many other partners are also involved, including resource users, fishers, Aboriginal organizations, educational institutions, and community associations.





The Government of Canada has recognized the important role that stewardship plays in species and habitat conservation by making stewardship a cornerstone of its three-part strategy to protect species at risk. In the spring of 2000, the Government of Canada announced new funding for the strategy, including \$45 million over five years for the Habitat Stewardship Program.

What Is the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk?

The Habitat Stewardship Program helps Canadians protect species and their habitats. It aims to enhance existing and encourage new conservation activities that foster land and resource use practices that maintain habitat critical to the survival and recovery of species at risk. To be proactive and prevent wildlife species from becoming at risk, the program also contributes to habitat needs for species of special concern.

The first year (2000/2001) of the program has seen the establishment of over 60 partnerships with First Nations, landowners, resource users, nature trusts, provinces, the natural resource sector, community-based wildlife societies, educational institutions, and conservation organizations at every scale. Stewardship projects resulting from these partnerships have benefited the habitat of approximately 60 nationally endangered and threatened species, and well over 100 provincially-listed species at risk. Priority landscapes and species that have been targeted in the first year of the program include:

- the South Okanagan-Smilkameen region of BC, home to 23 species at risk;
- the 23,000 km² area of the Missouri-Coteau grassland region of Saskatchewan, home of the piping plover and burrowing owl;
- the Clear Creek Carolinian Forest in southern Ontario, which protects habitat for the Acadian flycatcher and hooded warbler;
- areas of Manitoba, Ontario and Québec in support of recovery efforts for the Eastern population of the loggerhead shrike; and
- the Bay of Fundy, home of the North Atlantic right whale, where conservation groups, fishers, mariners, government and researchers are working together to reduce whale mortality associated with fishing gear and vessel traffic.

To ensure efficient use of limited resources, the Habitat Stewardship Program is a “directed” program. Regional and national partners establish the overall program and priorities, within which specific projects are then developed and funded.



Program Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Habitat Stewardship Program is to contribute to the recovery and protection of habitat for species at risk, and for other species of special concern. This goal is being achieved through two key objectives:

- To respond to habitat conservation needs by focusing on sensitive landscapes and key marine areas, it is hoped that habitat projects will benefit multiple species at risk and prevent others from becoming at risk.
- To enable individual Canadians and organizations to become actively and concretely involved in stewardship projects for species at risk that will result in tangible, measurable environmental benefits.

Species Priorities

Projects approved for funding under the Habitat Stewardship Program will address the stewardship needs of the following groups of species, with priority going to species of national concern and species in areas at high risk of biodiversity loss:

- All COSEWIC listed species at risk (endangered, threatened and species of special concern);
- Species listed under Provincial or Territorial legislation; and
- Species not yet listed, but for which stewardship actions will prevent them from becoming at risk.

Eligible Recipients and Activities

Any non-federal agency, organization, business, community or individual is eligible to receive funding under the Habitat Stewardship Program.

Activities that are eligible for funding under the program focus on stewardship for species at risk recovery and prevention of biodiversity loss on private lands, provincial crown lands, Aboriginal lands and in aquatic and marine areas across Canada. These activities include:

- Enhancement and restoration of habitat;
- Improved land management practices that benefit wildlife;
- Developing/modifying technology to reduce wildlife harm (e.g. selective fishing gear to reduce by-catch of species at risk);
- Outreach, education, extension, and technology transfer;



- Program planning and development (establishing conservation strategies, land use guidelines, program implementation planning);
- Stewardship program evaluation (assessment of program effectiveness) ;
- Monitoring, involving local communities and resource users, that is in direct support of future stewardship activities; and
- Securement of habitat (through acquisition and non-acquisition).

Program Description and Delivery

Like many successful conservation programs, the Habitat Stewardship Program is partnership-based. In this case, Government of Canada departments design and fund the program in cooperation with non-federal government partners, who then implement projects. Projects are formalized through agreements between federal and non-federal partners. Under these agreements, contributions are paid toward the costs of stewardship activities undertaken by project partners. Matching resources or contributions in-kind are required from project partners in support of contribution agreements.

Habitat stewardship for nationally-listed species at risk must be guided by national species recovery priorities. Yet, stewardship as a conservation tool is most effective when delivered at the regional or local level. Consequently, the Habitat Stewardship Program operates through a combination of national and regional support mechanisms to achieve its goal.

National leadership and guidance on recovery priorities for the program is provided by the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC), made up of provincial and territorial ministers responsible for wildlife, along with the federal ministers of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Canadian Heritage.

Program Administration

The program is managed cooperatively by the three departments that lead the Government of Canada's involvement in species at risk -- Environment Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Parks Canada Agency. However, overall responsibility and accountability for contributions under the program rests with the Minister of the Environment. A Program Secretariat and five Regional Coordinators, required to support overall program coordination and delivery, are located in national and regional offices of Environment Canada.



Regional coordination of the program is the responsibility of Regional Implementation Boards (RIBs), established in each of the five main geographic regions served by Environment Canada. Each RIB is chaired by a representative of one of the three lead Government of Canada departments. The intent is to expand membership of the five RIBs. Participation from other Government of Canada departments, the provinces and territories, Aboriginal organizations, the forest, agriculture and non-renewable resource sectors would benefit the program.

For More Information

Environment Canada's regional offices of the Environmental Conservation Service can provide more information on their respective stewardship projects under this program.

